

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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GREAT WHITE LETTUCE

(*Prenanthes crepidinea*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



Description: Great white lettuce grows 3 to 6 feet tall before flowering in late summer.

Nodding clusters of creamy to green flowers form at the summit of the plant; their outside bracts (small, specialized leaves at the base of



the flower cluster) are tipped with black. The largest leaves at the base of the plant can measure 8 inches by 10 inches, and are coarsely toothed. The upper leaves are smaller and have fewer teeth. All leaves are unlobed.

Habitat: Moist deciduous woods, especially floodplain forests, are the favored habitat of great white lettuce. It also is sometimes found along streambanks, in thickets at the edges of woods, or even in prairies.

Forestry Considerations: Because great white lettuce appears to tolerate some direct sun, single-tree selection and group-selection silviculture probably are compatible with its continued existence. Following the guidelines in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* would benefit this species.

